

INTELLOFAX 25

# CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Treatment of American War Prisoners by North Korean Authorities

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1. In mid-August 1950, a temporary PW camp was set up in the area between Manpojin and Kusanjin (126-00, 41-03) in large numbers of civilian farm houses which were taken over for the purpose. Both because of air raids and because of a wide-spread rumor that UN forces would soon land at the port of Chinnampo (125-21, 38-44), various government organizations were evacuated at that time from Pyongyang to Manpojin, and PWs held in the Pyongyang area were also taken north.
2. About the middle of August, approximately 300 American war prisoners were brought by train from Pyongyang to Manpojin. En route, between Kuhyon (126-21, 40-25) railroad station and Koin (126-23, 40-30) railroad station, escorting North Korean troops shot four prisoners because they were slow in scattering during a United Nations air raid. The four prisoners were exhausted, wounded, and suffering from lack of food.
3. Upon arrival at Manpojin railroad station, the prisoners were made to walk to the camp. Seven who were unable to walk were shot by the army guards and buried in paddy fields between Manpojin and Pyorha (126-34, 40-47) by other prisoners.
4. About 9 October, one evening a large number of war prisoners, estimated in the hundreds, in a foot convoy, passed through an unidentified village five miles south of Yul-li (126-15, 38-52). The villagers heard several shots and in the morning found one dead American prisoner along the roadside in the village and three others a mile north.
5. On 10 October, a North Korean State Security Bureau official passed the body of the single dead American prisoner, which had not been moved, searched his pockets and took U.S. \$16. The prisoner appeared to have been suffering from malnutrition and exhaustion before he was shot. He was wearing fatigues torn at knee and seat and had one worn Korean rubber shoe.
6. In late November 1950 when large-scale air raids occurred at Manpojin, it was rumored in the city that thousands of American war prisoners had been transferred to Chian (126-10, 41-07), Manchuria, on foot. In October and November, there

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was a small war prisoner camp in civilian houses in Hampojin. About 30 to 40 prisoners were held there for interrogation by the headquarters of the North Korean State Security Bureau.

1. Prisoners in North Korean camps were fed rice and Korean soup. They were not supplied with winter clothing. In general the prisoners at Hampojin appeared to be weak with hunger and suffering from cold, since they were wearing only the summer fatigues in which they had been captured.

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